

## **EMPOWERing Clean Energy Communities Project Synopsis**

### **FY 2009 Low – Moderate Income Grants**

#### **Catholic Charities Anne Arundel, Baltimore County and City, and Harford \$351,297**

Associated Catholic Charities (Catholic Charities) Maryland Energy Conservation (MEC) and C&O Conservation, Inc. (C&O) are partnering to train new weatherization employees and improve the energy efficiency of housing for vulnerable populations. Utilizing funds sought under this grant; Catholic Charities, MEC and C&O propose to train and fully equip nine (9) weatherization techs and a Crew Chief, and weatherize 650 residential units. The proposed weatherization services will benefit low-income seniors, disabled adults and people experiencing homelessness. Estimated annual energy savings are the equivalent of over 1,454,000 kWh.

#### **Fuel Fund of Maryland Statewide \$149,250**

Funding will provide for a statewide energy conservation-training program for individuals (adults and children), families, and groups (elementary schools, workforce training workshops for adults, etc.). WATT WATCHERS OF MARYLAND utilizes a train-the-trainer approach to maximize information sharing while integrating the concepts at the local level through local volunteer-trainers. The existing prototype has been functioning for about 15 months.

The program includes: point of intake at OHEP and FFM offices; education on the techniques of home-based conservation; WATT WATCHERS OF MARYLAND toolkits including insulation/weatherization stripping, water-miser shower heads, compact fluorescent light bulbs, etc; for adults, 5 workshop sessions sharing practicalities of saving energy and money, interpreting your energy bills, effectively utilizing the WATT WATCHERS OF MARYLAND toolkit, etc.; for children, coloring books, fun-hints on conservation that they can do to evaluate their home and behaviors for wasted energy; for the general public, energy saving hints on the website, referrals and links to other sites for in-depth information on how to save energy, opportunities for classes for community associations, public service announcements on energy saving and the value of reducing consumption. Expected annual energy savings from WATT WATCHERS toolkits amount to over 4,100,000 kWh.

#### **Habitat for Humanity – Maryland Statewide \$700,000**

Between May 2009 and July 2010, 12 Habitat for Humanity Affiliates in Maryland will construct or rehabilitate 117 homes in partnership with families, thousands of volunteers, and almost \$ 20 million dollars in donated funds, materials, and services. Their GreenerHeat 2010 initiative will reduce energy consumption across the state by providing technical assistance for helping each home reach an ENERGY STAR rating of 85 or below. Estimated annual energy savings amount to over 438,000 kWh.

**City of Annapolis EZ \$100,000**

Annapolis EZ will use the grant to provide loans for energy efficiency upgrades to 10 low-to-moderate income homes, one full time position, and other administrative costs. Annapolis EZ is an innovative approach to incorporating energy efficiency into homes and businesses. It offers reduced costs for home and business energy audits, low interest loans for energy improvements attached to the property, as well as help navigate the technical and financial assistance available for such activities. Energy savings from the ten homes is estimated to be 26,952 kWh annually.

**Civic Works, Inc. Baltimore City \$350,000**

Project Lightbulb makes energy conservation visits to households located in low-to-moderate income communities, providing homeowners with information about reducing energy use and installing CFLs, faucet aerators and showerheads, smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, water heater wraps and pipe insulation. The program trains teams of AmeriCorps members, who serve approximately three months with Project Lightbulb and receive a modest stipend, job development training, and an education award of \$1,000 that can be used at most colleges and trade schools. The project will serve 675 low-to-moderate income homes.

Civic Works' 3E Energy Solutions utilizes the principles of building science, retrofitting existing residential buildings to create living spaces that are more energy efficient, more affordable, safer, and more comfortable. The program provides training and apprenticeship opportunities for underemployed Baltimore residents hired to join the 3E Energy Solutions team. The 3E Energy Solutions program is currently funded to provide air sealing services for 35 households. Funding from MEA will allow the program to serve additional households while expanding weatherization services to include blown cellulose insulation. Combined estimated annual energy savings are 477,000 kWh.

**Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning Baltimore City \$100,000**

Energy Plus will serve 60 homes in the coming year by providing compact florescent light bulbs, a water heater blanket, pipe insulation, and weather stripping outside doors. In addition, participants will undergo a behavioral training component to teach energy efficiency and reduction of energy usage. Energy Plus will be provided as an additional benefit to very-low and low income housing units already participating in existing Coalition programs that provide window replacement and other home-based environmental health interventions to reduce lead poisoning, asthma attacks, and household injuries. The Coalition will measure energy consumption reductions by comparing utility costs, kWh of electricity, and therms of natural gas in prior years for each client enrolled in the program. The Coalition will ensure that clients participating in the program agree to share their utility bills to allow the program to evaluate changes in energy consumption. The Coalition will also develop an assessment tool to evaluate pre and post intervention behavioral changes by residents following the intervention and the resident education sessions. Estimated energy savings are over 66,000 kWh per year.

**Rebuilding Together Baltimore City \$55,500**

Rebuilding Together Baltimore (formerly known as "Christmas in April") is a non-profit organization focused on provided free home repairs for low-income homeowners. This grant will fund a pilot project to provide energy efficiency assessments and repairs and improvements for a total of 20 homes, as well as installing cool roofs on 6 homes. Estimated annual energy savings will exceed 80,000 kWh.

**St. Ambrose Housing Center Baltimore City \$75,000**

The grant funds will be used to help complete an HVAC replacement and upgrade of 28 affordable rental units at the St. Martins Apartment complex in Baltimore, Maryland. The apartments are occupied by disabled individuals, senior citizens, and low to moderate income working families. Almost 60,000 kWh are expected to be saved each year.

**Baltimore County Residential Energy Efficiency \$400,000**

Will retrofit 45 to 50 dwelling units occupied by low to moderate-income homeowners to increase energy efficiency using established standards and techniques such as Home Performance, Energy Star and US Green Building Council's Regreen standards. All properties must undergo an Energy Audit performed by a qualified Energy Auditor that has been certified through such programs as the Building Performance Institute or Home Performance with Energy Star. We are proposing to retrofit single family detached and attached owner occupied housing. This initiative will help us to develop best practice standards in energy efficiency in many types of residential housing stock. Energy savings estimated to be over 180,000 kWh per year.

**Jewish Community Services Baltimore County \$10,000**

Jewish Community Services will provide upgrades to its furnace, hot water heater, air conditioning, and appliances, including refrigerator and dishwasher, in one of its alternative living units, serving 30 low income seniors. Annual energy savings are expected to exceed 12,000 kWh.

**Episcopal Housing Corporation Carroll County \$111,375**

The Union Street Homeownership project will provide homeownership opportunities for nine low/moderate income families in the City of Westminster. The nine highly efficient town homes will be built utilizing modular construction and meet Energy Star guidelines. Modular construction increases energy efficiency through a well insulated and tight building envelope with no air gaps, which are common in stick built homes. An Energy Star rater will inspect the homes both in the factory and on site to ensure the guidelines are met and certify the houses as Energy Star compliant. An estimated 50,000 kWh will be saved each year.

**Frederick County DHCD \$200,000**

Frederick County DHCD will replace all existing 28 heat pumps and 28 hot water heaters with Energy Star units at Bell Court Apartments, a county-owned rental project that serves exclusively low-income senior (62 or older) and disabled residents. Bell Court is owned and operated by Frederick County Government and was developed in partnership with Interfaith Housing Alliance, Inc. via the State Partnership Rental Housing Program. To complement this grant effort, FCDH is concurrently working with the City of Frederick Community Action Agency to utilize the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) to fund other energy saving enhancements at Bell Court such as weather-stripping, additional insulation, and re-venting. Annual energy savings are expected to be as much as 104,000 kWh.

**Garrett County Community Action Committee \$100,000**

Garrett County CAC is focused on increasing the number of homes it weatherizes each year, from 60 this past year to 300 next year. The need for their services continues to rise. They will use these funds to weatherize an additional 15 homes. The estimated annual energy savings from the 15 homes exceeds 42,000 kWh.

**Community Action Council of Howard County \$300,000**

This grant will fund installation of Energy Star furnace, central AC, hot water heater, and related improvements to upgrade fifty residential units during their vacancy periods. Our partners from Department of Housing have agreed to provide supplemental Weatherization funds. Columbia Housing Corporation (CHC) will provide \$150,000 in-kind for upgrading the electrical and air support systems. The water heater and furnace are located in a closet in a living room and do not have enough combustion air. The project expects to save over 480,000 kWh each year.

**Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission \$250,000**

This project is designed to reduce energy consumption for 44 moderate income families living in homes owned by the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County (HOC). This grant will fund the replacement of existing, inefficient HVAC systems and water heaters with high efficiency ENERGY STAR (16 SEER) units, based upon the recommendations identified in Maryland Home Performance Energy Audits for each proposed dwelling unit. Expected annual energy savings amount to 189,000 kWh.

**Hebrew Home of Greater Washington Montgomery County \$97,578**

This grant will provide funding for upgrades to 2 facilities serving low-to-moderate income seniors. Upgrades at the Revitz House and the Wasserman residences will replace lighting, thermostats, and controls and compressor lubricants for heating and cooling equipment. Estimated annual energy savings amount to over 740,000 kWh.

**City of Mt. Rainier Manor House Prince George's County \$100,000**

115 low-to-moderate income senior citizens live in a 104-unit facility owned and operated by the City of Mt. Rainier. Each unit is individually metered and utilities are paid by the tenants. There has been significant settling of the building, making the alignment of the doors and windows problematic. Funds will be used to replace, caulk and weatherstrip the doors and windows in 25 of the units. Annual energy savings are expected to exceed 35,000 kWh.

**Habitat for Humanity – Talbot & Dorchester Counties \$50,000**

Habitat for Humanity of Talbot & Dorchester Counties (HFHT&DC) has committed to build homes which will have greater energy efficiency. Additionally it has been agreed that during FY10 we will increase our homebuilding by 25% and do so using sustainable construction practices. The grant will be used to cover the cost of hiring a LEED certified Construction Manager who will immediately supervise the construction of 7 new homes. Changes made to our Habitat for Humanity house plans, design requirements and construction skills will carry forward as they continue to serve the low income housing demand in the years to come. Energy savings from the 7 new homes are expected to exceed 24,000 kWh per year.